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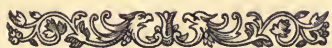
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THE BOOK OF VAGABONDS
AND BEGGARS.





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THE
Book of Vagabonds and Beggars:

WITH A VOCABULARY OF THEIR LANGUAGE.

EDITED BY

MARTIN LUTHER

IN THE YEAR 1528.

NOW FIRST TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH, WITH

INTRODUCTION AND NOTES,

BY

JOHN CAMDEN HOTTEN.

LONDON:

JOHN CAMDEN HOTTEN, PICCADILLY.

1860.

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PREFACE.

AS a picture of the manners and customs of the Vagabond population of Central Europe before the Reformation, I think this little book, the earliest of its kind, will be found interesting. The fact of Luther writing a Preface and editing it gives it at once some degree of importance, and excites the curiosity of the student.

In this country the *Liber Vagatorum* is almost unknown, and in Germany only a few scholars and antiquaries are acquainted with the book.

In translating it I have endeavoured as much as possible to preserve the spirit and peculiarities of the original. Some may object to the style as being too antique; but this garb I thought preserved a small portion of the original

quaintness, and was best suited to the period when it was written.

For several explanations of old German words, and other hints, I am indebted to a long notice of the *Liber Vagatorum*, which occurs in the "Wiemarisches Jahrbuch," 10^{te}, Band, 1856,—the only article of any moment that I know to have been written on the little book.

With respect to the facsimile woodcut, as it was too large to occupy a place on the title, as in the original (of 4to. size), it is here given as a frontispiece.


Perhaps some apology is required for the occasional use of plain-spoken, not to say coarse words. I can only urge, in justification of their adoption, that the nature of the subject would not admit of their being softened,—unless indeed at the expense of the narrative. As it is, I have sent forth this edition in very much more refined language than the great Reformer thought necessary when issuing the old German version.

J. C. H.

Piccadilly,
June 1, 1860.



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INTRODUCTION.



VAGABONDS and Beggars are ancient blots in the history of the world. Idleness, I suppose, existed before civilization began, but feigned distress must certainly have been practised soon after.

In the records of the Middle Ages enactments for the suppression and ordering of vagrancy continually occur. In this country, as we shall see directly, laws for its abolishment were passed at a very early date.

The begging system of the Friars, perhaps more than any other cause, contributed to swell the ranks of vagabonds. These religious mendicants, who had long been increasing in number and dissoluteness, gave

to beggars sundry lessons in hypocrisy, and taught them, in their tales of fictitious distress, how to blend the troubles of the soul with the infirmities of the body. Numerous systems of religious imposture were soon contrived, and mendicants of a hundred orders swarmed through the land. Things were at their worst, or rather both friars and vagabonds were in their palmiest days, towards the latter part of the fifteenth century, just before the suppression of the Religious Houses commenced, and immediately before the first symptoms of the Reformation showed themselves,—that great movement which was so soon to sweep one of the two pests away for ever.

In Schreiber's account of the *Bettler-industrie* (begging practices) of Germany in the year 1475, he thus speaks of this golden age for mendicants.* His theory, as to the origin of the complicated system of mendicity, is, perhaps, more fanciful than true, but

* *Taschenbuch für Geschichte und Alterthum in Sud-Deutschland, von Heinrich Schreiber*, Fribourg, 1839, p. 333. The Basle MSS. are here reprinted without any alteration.

his account is nevertheless very interesting, and well worth extracting from.

“The beggars of Germany rejoiced in their Golden Age; it extended throughout nearly two centuries, from the invasions of the Turks until after the conclusion of the Swedish war (1450 to 1650). During this long period it was frequently the case that begging was practised less from necessity than for pleasure;—indeed, it was pursued like a regular calling. For poetry had estranged herself from the Nobility; knights no longer went out on adventures to seek giants and dragons, or to liberate the Holy Tomb; she had likewise become more and more alien to the Citizen, since he considered it unwise to brood over verses and rhymes, when he was called upon to calculate his profits in hard coin. Even the ‘Sons of the Muses,’ the Scholars, had become more prosaic, since there was so much to learn and so many universities to visit, and the masters could no longer wander from one country to another with thousands of pupils.

“Then poetry (as everything in human life gradually descends) began to ally herself with beggars and vagrants. That which formerly had been misfortune and misery became soon a sort of free art, which only retained the mask of misery in order to pursue its course more safely and undisturbed. Mendicity became a distinct institution, was divided into various branches, and was provided with a language of its own. Doubtless, besides the frequent wars, it was the Gipsies—appearing in Germany, at the beginning of the fifteenth century, in larger swarms than ever—who contributed greatly to this state of things. They formed entire tribes of wanderers, as free as the birds in the air, now dispersing themselves, now reuniting, resting wherever forests or moors pleased, or stupidity and superstition allured them, possessing nothing, but appropriating to themselves the property of everybody, by stratagem or rude force.

“In what manner and to what extent such beggary had grown up and branched off towards the

close of the fifteenth century, what artifices and even what language these beggars used to employ, is shown us in Johann Knebel's Chronicles, the MSS. of which are preserved in the Library of the City and University of Bâle."

These MSS. are very curious. They contain the proceedings of the Trials at Basle,* in Switzerland, in 1475, when a great number of vagabonds, strollers, blind men, and mendicants of all orders, were arrested and examined. Johann Knebel was the chaplain of the cathedral there, and wrote them down at the time. From the reports of these trials it is believed the *Liber Vagatorum* was compiled; and it is also conjectured that, from the same rich source, Sebastian Brant, who just at that period had established himself at the University of Basle, where

* These Trials are also recorded in an old MS. of *Hieron. Wilb. Ebner*; printed in *Job. Heumanni Exercitationes iuris universi*, vol. I. (Altdorf, 1749, 4°.) No. XIII. *Observatio de lingua occulta*, pp. 174-180. Both Knebel and Ebner's accounts differ merely in style and dialect; in all essential points they closely harmonize.

he remained until 1500, drew the vivid description of beggars and begging, to be found in his *Ship of Fools*.*

Knebel gives a long list of the different orders of beggars, and the names they were known by amongst themselves. This account is similar to, only not so spirited as that given in the *Liber Vagatorum*. The tricks and impostures are very nearly the same, together with the cant terms for the various tribes of mendicants. Knebel, speaking of the manner in which the tricks of these rogues were first found out, says:—"At those times a great number of knaves went about the country begging and annoying people. Of these several were caught, and they told how they and their fellow-knaves were known, and when and how they used to meet, what they were called, and they told also several of their cant words."

* Brant wrote this work, and superintended its progress through the press whilst residing in this city.



THE *Liber Vagatorum*, or *The Book of Vagabonds*, was probably written shortly after 1509, that year being mentioned in the work ; it is the earliest book on beggars and their secret language of which we have any record,—preceding by half a century any similar work issued in this country.

Nothing is known of the author other than that it was written by one who styled himself a “Reverend Magister, nomine expertus in truffis,”—which proficiency in roguery, as Luther remarks, “the little book very well proves, even though he had not given himself such a name.”

None of the early impressions bears a date, but the first edition is known to have been printed at Augs- burg, about the year 1512-14, by Erhart Öglin, or Ocellus.* It is a small quarto, consisting of 12 leaves.

* This printer carried on business at Augsburg, partly alone, partly in connection with others, from 1505 to 1516. His editions of the *Liber Vagatorum* would seem therefore to have been printed between the years 1512-16.

The title :—

Liber Vagatorum;

Der Betler Orden :

is printed in red. The title-page of this, as of most of the early editions, is embellished with a woodcut, —a facsimile of which is given in this translation. The picture, representing a beggar and his family, explains itself. At the foot of the title is printed, in black :—*Getrucht zu Augspurg durch Erhart Öglin*. The little book was frequently reprinted without any other variations than printers' blunders (one edition having an error in the first word, *Lieber Vagatorum*) until 1528, when Luther edited an edition,* supplying a preface, and correcting some of the passages. In 1529 another edition, with Luther's preface, appeared at Wittemberg,† and from this, comparing it occasionally with the first

* Published at Wittemberg.

† The title-page of this edition is adorned with a facsimile of the woodcut which occurs in Öglin's edition,—the same, indeed, which is given in this translation.

edition by Ocellus, the present English version has been made. Nearly all the editions contain the same matter; nor do those issued under Luther's authority furnish us with additional information. With regard to the Vocabulary, however, I have made, in a few instances, slight variations, as given in two editions of the *Liber Vagatorum*, preserved in the Library at Munich. Wherever there was a marked divergence in style I have adopted that as my text which seemed to be the most characteristic for the fifteenth and the commencement of the sixteenth centuries, and which is mostly to be found in the better class MSS. and works of that period.

I should state, however, before proceeding further, that a metrical version of the *Liber Vagatorum*, in 838 verses, appeared about 1517-18, written by Pamphilus Gengenbach, including a vocabulary of the beggars' cant. Although Karl Gödecke, in his work, *Ein Beitrag zur Deutschen Literatur Geschichte der Reformationszeit* (Hannover, Carl Rümpler, 1855), has stated that

Gengenbach's poetical version preceded the smaller prose account, it is impossible, upon examining the two publications, to agree with him on this point. Gengenbach's book certainly did not appear till after 1517, and the direct copies from the *Liber Vagatorum*, in matter and manner, are too frequent to admit for one moment of the supposition of their being accidental. The cant terms, too, are incorrectly given, and altogether the work bears the appearance of hasty and piratical compilation. It never met with that popularity which the author anticipated, and probably never crossed the frontiers of Switzerland.

The latest prose edition of the *Liber Vagatorum* was issued towards the close of the seventeenth century. The title ran:—*Expertus in truffis. Of False Beggars and their knaveries. A pretty little book, made more than a century and a half since, together with a Vocabulary of some old cant words that occur therein, newly edited. Anno 1668 (12°. pp. 160).*



THAT Luther should have written a Preface to so undignified a little work as *The Book of Vagabonds* seems remarkable. At this period (1528-9) he was in the midst of his labours, surrounded with difficulties and cares, and with every moment of his time fully occupied. The Protest of Spire had just been signed by the first Protestants. Melancthon, in great affliction at the turbulent state of affairs, was running from city to city; and all Germany was alarmed to hear that the dreaded Turks were preparing to make battle before Vienna. Yet, the centre of all this agitation, engaged in directing and assisting his followers, Luther found time to write several popular pieces, and kept, we are told, the book-hawkers of Augsbourg and Spire busy in supplying them to the people. These Christian pamphlets, D'Aubigné informs us, were eagerly sought for and passed through numberless editions. It was not the peasants and townspeople only who read them, but nobles and princes. Luther intended

that they should be popular. He knew better than any man of his time how to captivate the reader and fix his attention. His little books were short, easy to read, full of homely sayings and current phrases, and ornamented with curious engravings. They were generally written, too, in Latin and German, to suit both the educated and the unlettered. One was entitled, *The Papacy with its Members painted and described by Dr. Luther*. In it figured the Pope, the cardinal, and all the religious orders. Under the picture of one of the orders were these lines:—

“We can fast and pray the harder,
With an overflowing larder.”

“Not one of these orders,” said Luther to the reader, “thinks either of faith or charity. This one wears the tonsure, the other a hood, this a cloak, that a robe. One is white, another black, a third gray, and a fourth blue. Here is one holding a looking-glass, there one with a pair of scissors. Each has his playthings. . . . Ah! these are the palmer-worms, the locusts, the canker-worms, and

the caterpillars which, as Joel saith, have eaten up all the earth.”*

In this style Luther addressed his readers—scourging the Pope, his cardinals, and all their emissaries. But another class of “locusts” besides these appeared to him to require sweeping away,—these were the beggars and vagabonds who imitated the Mendicant Friars in wandering up and down the country, with lying tales of distress, either of mind or body. As he says in his Preface, explaining the reason of his connection with the book, “I thought it a good thing that such a work should not only be published, but that it should become known everywhere, in order that men can see and understand how mightily the devil rules in this world; and I have also thought how such a book may help mankind to be wise, and on the look out for him, viz. the devil.”

Luther further adds—not forgetting, in passing, to give a blow to Papacy—“Princes, lords, counsellors of state, and everybody should be prudent, and cautious in dealing with beggars, and learn that,

* *D'Aubigné, Hist. Ref.* vol. iv. p. 10 (1853).

whereas people will not give and help honest paupers and needy neighbours, as ordained by God, they give, by the persuasion of the devil, and contrary to God's judgment, ten times as much to vagabonds and desperate rogues,—in like manner as we have hitherto done to monasteries, cloisters, churches, chapels, and Mendicant Friars, forsaking all the time the truly poor."

This was Luther's object in affixing his name to the little book. He saw that the Friars, Beggars, and Jews were eating up his country, and he thought that a graphic account of the various orders of vagrants, together with a list of their secret or cant words, issued under the authority of his name, would put people on their guard, and help to suppress the wretched system.

Luther's statement as to his own experience with these rogues is very *naïve*—"I have myself of late years," he remarks, "been cheated and slandered by such tramps and liars more than I care to confess."

Both priests and beggars regarded him with a peculiar aversion, and many were the nicknames and

vulgar terms applied to him. The slang language of the day, therefore, was not unknown to Luther.

At page 204 of *Williams' Lectures on Ecclesiastical History*, 4to. (apparently privately printed for the use of the students of St. Begh's College,) is the following foot-note:—

Of the violence with which Luther's enemies attacked his character, and strove to render his name and memory odious to the people, we have an example in the following production of a French Jesuit, Andreas Frusius, printed at Cologne, 1582:—

Elogium Martini Lutheri, ex ipsius Nomine et Cognomine.

Depinget et dignis te nemo coloribus unquam;

Nomen ego ut potero sic celebrabo tuum.

Magnicrepus	Mendax	Morofus	Morio	Monstrum
Ambitiosus	Atrox	Astutus	Apostata	Agaso
Ridiculus	Rhetor	Rabiosus	Rabula	Raptor
Tabificus	Tumidus	Tenebrosus	Transfuga	Turpis
Impius	Inconstans	Impostor	Iniquus	Ineptus
Nyctocorax	Nebulo	Nugator	Noxa	Nefandus
Ventofus	Vanus	Vilis	Vulpecula	Vecors
Schismaticus	Stolidus	Seducitor	Simia	Scurra
Lascivus	Leno	Larvatus	Latro	Lanista
Ventripotens	Vultur	Vinosus	Vappa	Voluptas
Tartareus	Torris	Tempestat	Tarbo	Tyrannus
Herefiarcha	Horrendus	Hypocrita	Hydra	Hermaphroditus
Erro	Execrandus	Effrons	Effronis	Eriunis
Retrogradus	Reprobus	Refupinus	Rana	Rebellis
Vesanus	Varius	Veterator	Vipera	Virus
Sacrilegus	Satanas	Sentina	Sophista	Scelestu

Each column is an acrostic of the name MARTINVS LUTHERVS, making 80 scurrilous epithets.



MUST now say something about the little books on vagabonds which appeared in this country fifty years after the *Liber Vagatorum* had become popular in Germany. The first and principal of these was edited by Thomas Harman, a gentleman who lived in the days of Queen Elizabeth, and who appears to have spent a considerable portion of his time in ascertaining the artifices and manœuvres of rogues and beggars. From a close comparison of his work with the *Liber Vagatorum*, I have little hesitation in saying that he obtained the idea and general arrangement, together with a good deal of the matter, from the German work edited by Luther. The title of Harman's book is:—*A Caueat for Cvrsetors vulgarely Called Vagabones, set forth for the vtilitie and profit of his naturell countrey.*

This first appeared in 1566. It was very popular, and soon ran through four editions, the last

being “augmented and enlarged by the first author thereof, with the tale of the second taking of the counterfeit Crank, and the true report of his behaviour and punishment, most marvellous to the hearer or reader thereof.”

The dates of the four editions are—

<i>William Gryffith</i>	.	.	1566
<i>ib. ib.</i>	.	.	1567
.	1567
<i>Henry Middleton</i>	.	.	1573

The printer of the third edition is not known. The book is dedicated, somewhat inconsistently, considering the nature of the subject, to Elizabeth, Countess of Shrewsbury. It gives, like the *Liber Vagatorum*, short but graphic descriptions of the different kinds of beggars, and concludes with a cant dictionary.

The next work on this subject which appeared in England was published nine years later:—

The Fraternitie of Vacabondes, with a Description of the crafty Company of Cousoners and Shifters;

*whereunto also is adioyned the XXV Orders of Knaues, other wise called a Quartern of Knaues. Confirmed for ever by Cocke Lorell. (London by John Awdeley, 4to. 1575.)**

Some have conjectured that it was an original compilation by Audley, the printer; but this little book, perhaps more than Harman's, shows traces of the German work. The "XXV Orders of Knaues" is nearly the number described in the *Liber Vagatorum*, and the tricks, and description of beggars' drestes in both are very similar. There are the rogues with patched cloaks, who begged with their wives and "doxies;" those with forged licenses and letters, who pretended to collect for hospitals; those afflicted with the falling sickness, a numerous number; some without tongues, carrying letters, pretending they have been signed and sealed by the authorities of the towns from whence they came;

* Consisting of nine leaves only. An edition appeared in 1603, and a reprint of the first edition was published in Westminster in 1813 (8^{vo}).

others, "freshe-water mariners," with tales of a dreadful shipwreck, and many more, all described in similar words, whether in the pages of the *Liber Vagatorum*, Harman, or Audley. It is reasonable to suppose, therefore, that the German account, being in the hands of the people abroad half a century before anything of the kind was issued here, copies must have found their way to England, and that from these the other two were in a great measure derived.

I might remark that other accounts of English vagabonds were published soon after this. The subject had become popular, and a demand for books of the kind was the result. Harrison, who wrote the *Description of England*, prefixed to *Holinshed's Chronicle* (1577), describes the different orders of beggars. Greene, about 1592, wrote several works, based mainly on old Harman's book; and Decker, twenty years later, provided a similar batch, giving an account of the vagabonds and loose characters of his day.

Shakespeare, too, and other dramatists of the period, introduced beggars and mendicants into their plays in company with the Gipsies, with whom, in a great measure, in this country they were allied.



AMONGST those passages which refer to the customs and tricks of beggars, in the *Liber Vagatorum*, there are few which receive illustration by a reference to the early laws and statutes of this country.

The licenses, or "letters with seals," so frequently alluded to, and which were granted to deserving poor people by the civil authorities, are mentioned as customary in this country in the Act for the ordering of Vagrants, passed in the reign of Henry VIII. (1531). It appears that the parish officers were compelled by this statute to make inquiry into the condition of the poor, and to ascertain who were really impotent and who were impostors. To a

person actually in want liberty was given to beg within a certain district, "and further," says the Act, "there shall be delivered to every such person a letter containing the name of that person, witnessing that he is authorized to beg, and the limits within which he is appointed to beg, the same letter to be sealed with the seal of the hundred, rape, wapentake, city, or borough, and subscribed with the name of one of the said justices or officers aforesaid."

I need scarcely remark that a seal in those days, when but few public functionaries could write, was looked upon as the badge of authority and genuineness, and that as the art of writing became more general autograph signatures supplanted seals. An English vagabond in the time of Elizabeth, when speaking of his passport, called it his *JARKE*, or *JARKEMAN*, viz. his sealed paper. His descendant of the present century would term it his *LINES*, viz. his written paper. The cant term *JARKE* is almost obsolete, but the powerful magic of a big

feal is still remembered and made use of by the tribe of cadgers. When a number of them at the present day wait upon a farmer with a fictitious paper, authorizing them to collect subscriptions for the sufferers in some dreadful colliery accident, the document, covered with apparently genuine signatures, is generally garnished with a huge seal.

In Germany it was the custom (alluded to at page 34) for the priests or clerks to read these licenses to beg from the pulpit, that the congregation might know which of the poor people who waited at their doors were worthy of alms. Sometimes, as in the case of the DÜTZBETTERIN, or false "lying-in-woman," an anecdote of whom is told here, the priests were deceived by counterfeit documents.

At page 17 reference is made to the wandering students who used to trudge over the country and sojourn for a time at any school charitable enough to take them in. These, in their journeys, often fell in with rogues and tramps, and sometimes joined

them in their vagabond calling, in which case they obtained for themselves the title of KAMMESIERERS, or "Learned Beggars." Now these same vagabond scholars were to be met with in this country in the time of Henry VIII,—and in Ireland, I believe, so late as the last century. Examining again the Act for Vagrants, 1531, we find that it was usual and customary for poor scholars from Oxford and Cambridge to tramp from county to county. The statute provided them with a document, signed by the commissary, chancellor, or vice-chancellor, which acted as their passport. When found without this license they were treated as vagrants, and whipped accordingly.



It is remarkable that many of the tricks and manœuvres to obtain money from the unthinking but benevolent people of Luther's time should have been practised in this country at an early date, and that they should still be found

amongst the arts to deceive thoughtless persons adopted by rogues and tramps at the present day. The stroller, or "Master of the Black Art," described at page 19, is yet occasionally heard of in our rural districts. The simple farmer believes him to be weather and cattle wise, and should his crops be backward, or his cow "Spot," not "let down her milk," with her accustomed readiness, he crosses the fellow's hand with a piece of silver, in order that things may be righted.

The WILTNEERS, or finders of pretended silver fingers, noticed at page 45, are now-a-days represented by the "Fawney Riggers," or droppers of counterfeit gold rings,—described in *Mayhew's London Labour*, and other works treating of the ways of vagabonds.

"Card-Sharpers," or JONERS, mentioned at page 47, are, unfortunately for the pockets of the simple, still to be met with on public race-courses and at fairs.

The OVER-SÖNZEN-GOERS, or pretended distressed

gentry, who went about “neatly dressed,” with false letters, would seem to have been the original of our modern “Begging-Letter-Writers.”

Those half-famished looking impostors, with clean aprons, or carefully brushed threadbare coats, who stand on the curbs of our public thoroughfares, and beg with a few sticks of sealing-wax in their hands, were known in Luther’s time as GOOSE-SHEARERS. As the reader will have experienced only too frequently, they have, when pretending to be mechanics out of employ, a particularly unpleasant practice of following people, and detailing, in half-despairing, half-threatening sentences, the state of their pockets and their appetites. It appears they did the same thing more than three centuries ago.

Another class, known amongst London street-folk as “Shivering-Jemmies,”—fellows who expose themselves, half-naked, on a cold day, to excite pity and procure alms—were known in Luther’s time as SCHWANFELDERS,—only in those days, people being not quite so modest as now, they stripped them-

felves entirely naked before commencing to shiver at the church-doors.

Those wretches, who are occasionally brought before the police magistrates, accused of maiming children, on purpose that they may the better excite pity and obtain money, are, unfortunately, not peculiar to our civilized age. These fellows committed like cruelties centuries ago.

Borrowers of children, too,—those pretended fathers of numerous and starving families of urchins, now often heard howling in the streets on a wet day, the children being arranged right and left according to height,—existed in the olden time,—only then the loan was but for All Souls', or other Feast Day, when the people were in a good humour.

The trick of placing soap in the mouth to produce froth, and falling down before passers-by as though in a fit, common enough in London streets a few years ago, is also described as one of the old manœuvres of beggars.*


* See page 21.

Travelling quack-doctors, against whom Luther cautions his readers, were common in this country up to the beginning of the present century.* And it is not long ago since the credulous countrymen in our rural districts, were cheated by fellows—"wise-men" they preferred being termed—who pretended to divine dreams, and say under which tree or wall the hidden treasure, so plainly seen by Hodge in his sleep carefully deposited in a crock, was to be found. This pleasant idea of a pot full of gold, being buried near everybody, seems to have possessed people in all ages. In Luther's time the nobility and clergy appear to have been sadly troubled with it, and it is very amusing to learn that so simple in this respect were the latter, that after they had given "gold and silver" to the cunning treasure-seeker, this worthy would insist upon their offering up masses in order that the digging might be attended with success!

And lastly, the travelling tinkers,—who appear to

* Page 47.

have had no better name for honesty in the fifteenth century than they have now,—“going about breaking holes in people’s kettles to give work to a multitude of others,” says the little book.

 WITH regard to the Rothwelsch Sprache, or cant language used by these vagrants, it appears, like nearly all similar systems of speech, to be founded on allegory. Many of the terms, as in the case of the ancient cant of this country, appear to be compound corruptions,—two or more words, in ordinary use, twisted and pronounced in such a way as to hide their original meaning. As Luther states, in his preface, the Hebrew appears to be a principal element. Occasionally a term from a neighbouring country, or from a dead language may be observed, but not frequently. As they occur in the original I have retained those cant words which are to be found here and there in the text. Perhaps it would have rendered a perusal less

tedious had they been placed as foot-notes ; but I preferred to adhere to the form in which Luther was content the little book should go forth to the world. The simple form of these secret terms has generally been given, there being no establishe rule for their inflection. In a few instances I found myself unable to give English equivalents to the cant words in the Vocabulary, so was compelled to leave them unexplained, but with the old German meanings (not easy to be unravelled) attached.

JOHN CAMDEN HOTTEN.

Piccadilly, June, 1860.







Libꝛ Vagatorum

THE BOOK OF VAGABONDS AND
BEGGARS WITH A PRE-
FACE BY MARTIN

LUTHER



Printed at WITTEMBERG in the year
M. D. XXIX.



MARTIN LUTHER'S PREFACE.



HIS little book about the knaveries of beggars was first printed by one who called himself Expertus in Truffis, that is, a fellow right expert in roguery,—which the little work very well proves, even though he had not given himself such a name.

But I have thought it a good thing that such a book should not only be printed, but that it should become known everywhere, in order that men may see and understand how mightily the devil rules in this world; and I have also thought how such a book may help mankind to be wise, and on the look out for him, viz. the devil. Truly, such Beggars' Cant has come from the Jews, for many Hebrew words occur in the Vocabulary, as any one who understands that language may perceive.

Preface.

But the right understanding and true meaning of the book is, after all, this, viz. that princes, lords, counsellors of state, and everybody should be prudent, and cautious in dealing with beggars, and learn that, whereas people will not give and help honest paupers and needy neighbours, as ordained by God, they give, by the persuasion of the devil, and contrary to God's judgment, ten times as much to Vagabonds and desperate rogues,—in like manner as we have hitherto done to monasteries, cloisters, churches, chapels, and mendicant friars, forsaking all the time the truly poor.

For this reason every town and village should know their own paupers, as written down in the Register, and assist them. But as to outlandish and strange beggars they ought not to be borne with, unless they have proper letters and certificates; for all the great rogueries mentioned in this book are done by these. If each town would only keep an eye upon their paupers, such knaveries would soon be at an end. I have myself of late years been cheated and befooled by such

Preface.

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tramps and liars more than I wish to confess. Therefore, whosoever hear these words let him be warned, and do good to his neighbour in all Christian charity, according to the teaching of the commandment.

SO HELP US GOD ! Amen.





Liber Vagatorum ;

THE BOOK OF VAGABONDS AND
BEGGARS.

The Mendicant Brotherhood.



HERE follows a pretty little book, called *Liber Vagatorum*, written by a high and worthy master, *nomine Expertus in Truffis*, to the praise and glory of God, *sibi in refrigerium et solacium*, for all persons' instruction and benefit, and for the correction and conversion of those that practise such knaveries as are shown hereafter ; which little book is divided into three parts. Part the first shows the several methods by which mendicants and tramps get their

livelihood ; and is subdivided into XX chapters, *et paulo plus*,—for there are XX ways, *et ultra*, whereby men are cheated and fooled. Part the second gives some *notabilia* which refer to the means of livelihood afore mentioned. The third part presents a Vocabulary of their language or gibberish, commonly called Red Welsh, or Beggarlingo.

¶ PART THE FIRST OF THIS LITTLE BOOK.

Of the Bregers, or Beggars.



THE first chapter is about BREGERs. These are beggars who have neither the signs of the faints about them, nor other good qualities, but they come plainly and simply to people and ask an alms for God's, or the Holy Virgin's sake :—perchance honest paupers with young children, who are known in the town or village wherein they beg, and who would, I doubt

not, leave off begging if they could only thrive by their handicraft or other honest means, for there is many a godly man who begs unwillingly, and feels ashamed before those who knew him formerly when he was better off, and before he was compelled to beg. Could he but proceed without he would soon leave begging behind him.

Conclusio: To these beggars it is proper to give, for such alms are well laid out.

Of the Stabülers, or Bread Gatherers.



THE next chapter is about the STABÜLERS. These are vagrants who tramp through the country from one Saint to another, their wives (KRÖNERIN) and children (GATZAM) going (ALCHEN) with them. Their hats (WETTERHAN) and cloaks (WINTFANG) hang full of signs of all the saints,—the cloak (WINTFANG) being made (VETZEN) out of a hundred pieces. They go to

the peasants who give them bread (LEHEM DIP-PEN); and each of these STABÜLERS has six or seven sacks, and carries a pot, plate, spoon, flask, and whatever else is needed for the journey with him. These same STABÜLERS never leave off begging, nor do their children, from their infancy to the day of their death—for the beggar's staff keeps the fingers (GRIFFLING) warm—and they neither will nor can work, and their children (GAT-ZAM) grow up to be harlots and harlotmongers (GLIDEN und GLIDESVETZER), hangmen and flayers (ZWICKMEN und KAVELLER). Also, whithersoever these STABÜLERS come, in town or country, they beg; at one house for God's sake, at another for St. Valentine's sake, at a third for St. Kürine's, *sic de aliis*, according to the disposition of the people from whom they seek alms. For they do not adhere to one patron or trust to one method alone.

Conclusio: Thou mayest give to them if thou wilt, for they are half bad and half good,—not all bad, but most part.

Of the Lossners,* or liberated Prisoners.

THE iijrd chapter is about the LOSSNERS. These are knaves who say they have lain in prison vi or vij years, and carry the chains with them wherein they lay as captives among the infidel (*id est*, in the SONNENBOSS, *i. e.* brothel) for their christian faith; *item*, on the sea in galleys or ships enchained in iron fetters; *item*, in a strong tower for innocence' sake; and they have forged letters (LOE BSAFFOT), as from the princes and lords of foreign lands, and from the towns (KIELAM) there, to bear witness to their truth, tho' all the time they are deceit and lies (GEVOPT und GEVERBT),—for vagabonds may be found everywhere on the road who can make (VETZEN) any seal they like—and they say they have vowed to Our Lady at Einsiedlin (in the DALLINGER'S BOSS, *i. e.* harlot's house), or to some

* Literally “prisoners *let-loose*.”

other Saint (in the SCHÖCHERBOSS, *i. e.* beer-house), according to what country they are in, a pound of wax, a silver crucifix, or a chafuble; and they say they have been made free through that vow, and; when they had vowed, the chains opened and broke, and they departed safe and without harm. *Item*, some carry iron fastenings, or coats of mail (PANZER) with them, *et sic de aliis*. *Nota*: They have perchance bought (KÜMMERT) the chains; perchance they had them made (VETZEN); perchance stolen (GEJENFT) them from the church (DIFTEL) of St. Lenhart.

Conclusio: To such vagrants thou shalt give nothing, for they do nought but deceive (VOPPEN) and cheat (VERBEN) thee; not one in a thousand speaks the truth.

Of the Klenkners, or Cripples.



HE iiijth is about the KLENKNERS. These are the beggars who sit at the church-doors, and attend fairs and church gatherings with sore and broken legs; one has no foot, another no shank, a third no hand or arm. *Item*, some have chains lying by them, saying they have lain in captivity for innocence' sake, and commonly they have a St. Sebastianum or St. Lenhartum with them, and they pray and cry with a loud voice and noisy lamentations for the sake of the Saints, and every third word one of them speaks (BARL) is a lie (GEVOP), and the people who give alms to him are cheated (BESEFELT),—inasmuch as his thigh or his foot has rotted away in prison or in the stocks for wicked deeds. *Item*, one's hand has been chopped off in the quarrels over dice or for the sake of a harlot. *Item*, many a one ties a leg up or besmears an arm with salves, or

walks on crutches, and all the while as little ails him as other men. *Item*, at Utenheim there was a priest by name Master Hans Ziegler (he holds now the benefice of Rosheim), and he had his niece with him. One upon crutches came before his house. His niece carried him a piece of bread. He said, "Wilt thou give me nought else?" She said, "I have nought else." He replied, "Thou old priest's harlot! wilt thou make thy parson rich?" and swore many oaths as big as he could utter them. She cried and came into the room and told the priest. The priest went out and ran after him. The beggar dropped his crutches and fled so fast that the parson could not catch him. A short time afterwards the parson's house was burnt down; he said the KLENKNER did it. *Item*, another true example: at Schletstat, one was sitting at the church-door. This man had cut the leg of a thief from the gallows. He put on the dead leg and tied his own leg up. He had a quarrel with another beggar. This latter one ran off and told the town-

serjeant. When he saw the serjeant coming he fled and left the fore leg behind him and ran out of the town—a horse could hardly have overtaken him. Soon afterwards he hung on the gallows at Achern, and the dry leg beside him, and they called him Peter of Kreuzenach. *Item*, they are the biggest blasphemers thou canst find who do such things; and they have also the finest harlots (GLIDEN), they are the first-comers at fairs and church-celebrations, and the last-goers therefrom.

Conclusio: Give them a kick on their hind parts if thou canst, for they are nought but cheats (BESEFLER) of the peasants (HANZEN) and all other men.

Example: One was called Uz of Lindau. He was at Ulm, in the hospital there, for xiiij days, and on St. Sebastian's day he lay before a church, his hands and thighs tied up, nevertheless he could use both legs and hands. This was betrayed to the constables. When he saw them coming he fled from the town,—a horse could hardly have ran faster.

Of Dobissers,* or Dopfers, *i. e.* Church-
mendicants.

THE vth chapter is about DOBISSERS. These beggars (STIRNENSTÖSSER, *i. e.* spurious anointers) go *hostiatim* from house to house, and touch the peasant and his wife (HANZ und HANZIN) with the Holy Virgin, or some other Saint, saying that it is the Holy Virgin from the chapel,—and they pass themselves off for friars from the same place. *Item*, that the chapel was poor and they beg linen-thread for an altar-cloth (*id est*, a gown [CLAFFOT] for a harlot [SCHREFEN]). *Item*, fragments of silver for a chalice (*id est*, to spend it in drinking [VERSCHÖCHERN] or gambling [VERJONEN]). *Item*, towels for the priests to dry their hands upon, (*id est*, to sell [VERKÜMMERN] them). *Item*, there are also DOBISSERS, church-beggars, who have letters with seals, and beg alms to repair a

* Debissern.

ruined chapel (DIFTEL), or to build a new church. Verily, such friars *do* make collections for an *edificium*—viz. one which lies not far below the nose, and is called St. Drunkard's chapel.

Conclusio: As to these DOBISSERS, give them nought, for they cheat and defraud thee. If from a church that lies ij or iij miles from thee people come and beg, give them as much as thou wilt or canst.

Of Kammesierers, or Learned Beggars.



THE ^{vj}th chapter is about the KAMMESIERERS. These beggars are young scholars or young students, who do not obey their fathers and mothers, and do not listen to their masters' teaching, and so depart, and fall into the bad company of such as are learned in the arts of strolling and tramping, and who quickly help them to lose all they have by gambling (VERJONEN), pawning (VER-

SENKEN), or felling (VERKÜMMERN) it, with drinking (VERSCHÖCHERN) and revelry. And when they have nought more left, they learn begging, and KAMMESIERING, and to cheat the farmers (HANZEN-BESEFLEN); and they KAMESIER as follows: *Item*, that they come from Rome (*id est*, from the brothel [SONNENBOSS]), studying to become priests (on the gallows, *i. e.* DOLMAN); *item*, one is *acolitus*, another is *epistolarius*, the third *evangelicus*, and a fourth *clericus* (GALCH); *item*, they have nought on earth but the alms wherewith people help them, and all their friends and family have long been called away by death's song. *Item*, they ask linen cloth for an alb (*id est*, for a harlot's shift, *i. e.* GLIDEN HANFSTAUDEN). *Item*, money, that they may be consecrated at next Corpus Christi day (*id est*, in a SONNENBOSS, *i. e.* brothel), and whatever they get by cheating and begging they lose in gambling (VERJONEN), or with strumpets, or spend it in drink (VERSCHOCHERNS und VERBOLENS). *Item*, they shave tonsures on their heads, although they are not ordained and have no

church document (FORMAT), though they say they have, and they are altogether a bad lot (LOE VOT).

Conclusio : As to these KAMMESIERERS give them nought, for the less thou givest them the better it is for them, and the sooner they must leave off. They have also forged FORMATÆ (*literæ*).

Of Vagrants (Uagierern), or Strollers.



THE vijth chapter is about VAGRANTS. These are beggars or adventurers who wear yellow garments, come from Venusberg, know the black art, and are called rambling scholars. These same when they come into a house speak thus:—
 “Here comes a rambling scholar, a magister of the seven free arts (*id est*, the various ways of cheating [BESEFLEN] the farmers [HANZEN]), an exorciser of the devil for hail, for storm, and for witchcraft.”
 Then he utters some magical words and crosses his breast ii or iij times, and speaks thus:—

“ Wherever these words are said,
 No man shall suddenly fall dead,
 No murrain, mildew or other miserie
 Shall touch this ground to all eternitie ;”

and many more precious words. Then the farmers (HANZEN) think it all true, and are glad that he is come, and are sorry they have never seen a wandering scholar before, and speak to the vagrant :—“ This or that has happened to me, can you help me? I would willingly give you a florin or ij”—and he says “ Yes,” and cheats the farmers (BESEFELTDEN den HANZEN ums MESS) out of their money. And after these experiments they depart. The farmers suppose that by their talking they can drive the devil away, and can help them from any trouble that has befallen them. Thou canst ask them nothing but they will perform thee an experiment therewith ; that is, they can cheat and defraud thee of thy money.

Conclusio : Beware of these *Vagrants*, for where-with they practise is all lies.

Of the Grantners, or Knaves with the
falling Sicknefs.



THE viijth chapter is about the GRANTNERS. These are the beggars who say in the farm-houses (HANSEN-BOSS):—"Oh, dear friend, look at me, I am afflicted with the falling sicknefs of St. Valentine, or St. Kurinus, or St. Vitus, or St. Antonius, and have offered myself to the Holy Saint (*ut supra*) with vj pounds of wax, with an altar cloth, with a silver salver (*etcetera*), and must bring these together from pious people's offerings and help; therefore I beg you to contribute a heller, a spindleful of flax, a ribbon, or some linen yarn for the altar, that God and the Holy Saint may protect you from misery and disease and the falling sicknefs." *Nota*: A false (LOE) trick.

Item, some fall down before the churches, or in other places with a piece of soap in their mouths, whereby the foam rises as big as a fist, and they prick

their nostrils with a straw, causing them to bleed, as though they had the falling-sickness. *Nota*: this is utter knavery. These are villanous vagrants that infest all countries. *Item*, there are many who speak (BARLEN) thus:—"Listen to me, dear friends, I am a butcher's son, a tradesman. And it happened some time since that a vagrant came to my father's house and begged for St. Valentine's cake; and my father gave me a penny to give to him. I said, 'father, it is knavery.' My father told me to give it to him, but I gave it him not. And since that hour I have been afflicted with the falling-sickness, and I have made a vow to St. Valentine of iij pounds of wax and a High Mass, and I beg and pray pious folks to help me, because I have made this vow; otherwise I should have substance enough for myself. Therefore I ask of you an offering and help that the dear holy St. Valentine may guard and protect you evermore." *Nota*: what he says is all lies. *Item*, he has been more than xx years collecting for his iij pounds of wax and the mass, and has been gambling (VER-

JONEN), bibbling (VERSCHÖCHERN), and rioting (VERBOLEN) with it. And there are many that use other and more subtle words than those given in this book. *Item*, some have a written testimony (BSAF-FOT) that it is all true.

Conclusio: If any of the GRANTNERS cometh before thine house, and simply beggeth for God's sake, and speaketh not many, nor flowery words, to them thou shalt give, for there are many men who have been afflicted with the sickness by the Saints; but as to those GRANTNERS who use many words, speak of great wonders, tell you that they have made vows, and can altogether skilfully use their tongues—these are signs that they have followed this business for a long time, and, I doubt not, they are false and not to be trusted. As to him who believes them, they take a nut off his tree. Take care of such, and give them nothing.

Of the Dutzers.



THE ixth chapter is about the DUTZERS. These are beggars who have been ill for a long time, as they say, and have promised a difficult pilgrimage to this or that Saint (*ut supra in precedenti capitulo*) for three whole and entire alms every day, that they, thereby, must go each day from door to door until they find three pious men who will give them three entire alms. Thus speaketh a pious man unto them: "What is an entire alms?" Whereat the DUTZER replieth: "A 'plaphart' (*blaffard*), whereof I must have three every day, and take no less, for without that the pilgrimage is no good." Some go for iij pennies, some for one penny, *et in toto nihil*. And the alms they "must have from a good and correct man." Such is the vanity of women, rather than be called impious they give a double "blaffard," and send the DUTZER one to another, who uses many other

words which I cannot make bold to repeat. *Item*, they would take a hundred “blaffards” and more a day if they were given them, and what they say is all lies (GEVOPT). *Item*, this also is DUTZING, viz. when a beggar comes to thine house and speaks: “Good woman, might I ask you for a spoonful of butter; I have many young children, and I want the wherewith to cook soup for them?” *Item*, for an egg (BETZAM): “I have a child bedridden now these seven days.” *Item*, for a mouthful of wine, “for I have a sick wife,” *et sic de aliis*. This is called DUTZING.

Conclusio: Give nought whatsoever to those DUTZERS who say that they have taken a vow not to gather more *per diem* than iij or iiij entire alms, *ut supra*. They are half good (HUNT), and half bad (LÖTSCH); but the greater part bad.

Of Schleppers, or False Begging Priests.

THE xth chapter is about the SCHLEPPERS. These are KAMMESIERERS who pretend to be priests. They come to the houses with a *famulus* or *discipulus* who carries a sack after them, and speak thus :—" Here comes a consecrated man, named Master George Kessler, of Kitzebühel (or what else he likes to call himself) and I am of such-and-such a village, or of such-and-such a family (naming a family which they know), and I will officiate at my first mass on such-and-such a day in that village, and I was consecrated for the altar in such-and-such a town at such-and-such a church, and there is no altar cloth, nor is there a missal, *et cetera*, and I cannot afford them without much help from all men ; for mark, whosoever is commended for an offering in the angel's requiem, or for as many pennies as he gives, so many souls will be released amongst his deceased kindred." *Item*, they

receive also the farmer (HANZ) and his wife (HANZIN) into a brotherhood, which they say had bestowed on it grace and a great indulgence from the bishop who is to erect the altar. Thus men are moved to pity; one gives linen yarn, another flax or hemp; one table cloths, or towels, or old silver plate; and the SCHLEPPERS say that they are not a brotherhood like the others who have *questionerer*, and who come every year, but that they will come no more (for if they came again they would certainly be drowned [GEFLÖSSELT]). *Item*, this manner is greatly practised in the Black Forest, and in the country of Bregenz, in Kurwalen, and in the Bar, and in the Algen, and on the Adige, and in Switzerland, where there are not many priests, and where the churches are far distant from each other,—as are also the farms.

Conclusio: To these SCHLEPPERS, or Knaves, give nothing, for it would be badly laid out.

Exemplum. One was called Manfuetus; he also invited the farmers to his first mass at St. Gallen;

and when they came to St. Gallen they sought for him in the cathedral, but found him not. After their meal they discovered him in a brothel (SON-NENBOSS), but he escaped.

Of the Gickisses, or Blind Beggars.



THE xith chapter is of the GICKISSES, or Blind Beggars. Mark: there are three kinds of blind men who wander about. Some are called BLOCHARTS, *id est*, blind men—made blind by the power of God,—they go on a pilgrimage, and when they come into a town they hide their round hats, and say to the people they have been stolen from them, or lost at the places where they had sheltered themselves, and one of them often collects ten or xx caps, and then sells them. Some are called blind who have lost their sight by evil-doings and wickednesses. They wander about in the country and carry with them pictures of devils, and re-

pair to the churches, and pretend they had been at Rome, to Saint James, and other distant places, and speak of great signs and wonders that had taken place, but it is all lies and deception. Some of the blind men are called BROKEN WANDERERS (*Bruch Umbgeen*). These are such as have been blinded ten years or more; they take cotton, and make the cotton bloody, and then with a kerchief tie this over their eyes, and say that they have been mercers or pedlers, and were blinded by wicked men in a forest, that they were tied fast to a tree and so remained three or four days, and, but for a merciful passer-by, they would have miserably perished;—and this is called BROKEN WANDERING.

Conclusio : Know them well before thou givest to them ; my advice is only give to those thou knowest.

Of the Schwanfelders, Blickschlahers, or
Naked Beggars.

THE xijth chapter is about the SCHWANFELDERS, or BLICKSCHLAHERS. These are beggars who, when they come to a town, leave their clothes at the hostelry, and sit down against the churches naked, and shiver terribly before the people that they may think they are suffering from great cold. They prick themselves with nettle-feed and other things, whereby they are made to shake. Some say they have been robbed by wicked men; some that they have lain ill and for this reason were compelled to sell their clothes. Some say they have been stolen from them; but all this is only that people should give them more clothes, when they sell (VERKÜMMERN) them, and spend the money with lewd women (VERBOLENS) and gambling (VERJONENS).

Conclusio : Beware of these SCHWANFELDERS for it is all knavery, and give them nothing, whether they be men or women, (unless) thou knowest them well.

Of the Voppers, or Demoniacs.



THE xiiijth chapter is about the VOPPERS. These beggars are for the most part women, who allow themselves to be led in chains as if they were raving mad ; they tear their shifts from their bodies, in order that they may deceive people. There are also some that do both, VOPPERY and DUTZING, together. This is VOPPING, viz. when one begs for his wife's or any other person's sake and says she has been possessed of a devil (tho' there is no truth in it), and he has vowed to some Saint (whom he names), and must have xij pounds of wax or other things whereby the person will be delivered from the power of the devil. These are called DUTZING-VOPPERS.

Conclusio: This is a wicked and false way of begging. They sing,—

A beggar's (BREGAR) wench (ERLATIN) will cheat,
And lie (VOPPEN) and be full of deceit (FERBEN):
And he kicks and beats her with his shoe.

There are also some VOPPERINAE, *id est*, women, who pretend that they have diseases of the breast. They take a cow's spleen, and peel it on one side, and then lay it upon their bosom—the peeled part outside—besmearing it with blood, in order that people may think it is the breast. These are the VOPPERINAE.


Of the Dallingers, or Hangmen.



THE xiiijth chapter is about the DALLINGERS. These are they who stand before the churches, having been hangmen (although they have left it off i year or ii since), and chastise and whip themselves with rods, and will do pe-

nance and pilgrimage for their sin and wickednesses. These often beg with much success. When they have practised for a while and cheated many people thereby, they become hangmen again, as before. Give to them if thou wilt; but they are all knaves who beg thus.

Of the Dützbetterins, or Lying-in Women.

 HE xvth chapter is about the DÜTZBETTERINS. These are the beggarwomen who lay themselves before the churches all over the country. They spread a sheet over themselves, and set wax and eggs by them, as tho' they were in childbed, and say, their babe died xiiij days ago, altho' some of them have not had one these x or xx years; and they are called DÜTZBETTERINS. To these nothing is to be given,—*causa*: There lay once, at Strasburg, a man underneath a sheet before the cathedral, and it was pretended he was a woman in childbed. But he was taken by the town serjeants,

and put into a halfong, and in the pillory, and then he was forbidden the country. There are likewise some women who pretend they have been pregnant with a monster and have brought forth such, as did a woman who came to Pforzheim in the year one thousand five hundred and nine. This same woman said that a short time before she had given birth to a child and a live toad; and that this very toad she had carried to Our Lady at Einsiedeln, where it was still alive, and that it must have a pound of meat every day,—being kept at Einsiedeln as a miracle. Thus she begs alms as if she were on her way to Ach, to Our Lady. She had also a letter with a seal, which was proclaimed from the pulpit. The same woman, however, had a lusty young man whom she kept in food by such villany, sitting in an alehouse in the suburb waiting for her. All this was found out by the gate-keeper; and they would have been seized, but they had been warned and so took themselves off. *Nota:* All this was utter knavery.

Of the Süntveggers, or (pretended)
Murderers.



THE xvith chapter is about the SÜNTVEGERS. These are strong fellows who go about the country with long knives and say they have taken a man's life away, but that it was in self-defence, and then they name a sum of money which they must have, and unless they bring the money at the right time, they will have their heads cut off. *Item*, some are accompanied by a fellow on their begging-rounds who goes in iron chains and fetters fastened with rings, and who says he was bail for the other for a sum of money to the people, and if he gets not the money in time, both of them must perish.

Of the female Süntveggers.



THE xvijth chapter is about the FEMALE-SÜNT-VEGERS. These are the wives (KRÖNERIN), or, in reality, the wenches (GLIDEN) of the above fellows (*supra in precedenti capitulo*). They wander over the country, and say that formerly they led a loose life, but that now they repent and would turn from their wickedness, and beg alms for the sake of Sancta Maria Magdalena, and cheat the people therewith.

Of the Bil-wearers,* or (pretended)
Pregnant Women.

THE xvijth chapter is about the BIL-WEARERS. These are the women who tie old jerkins, or clothes, or a pillow over their person, underneath the gown, in order that people may think

* In the original BILTREGERIN (*Bildtragerin*), i. e. Billet-wearers.

they are with child ; and they have not had one for xx years or more. This is called GOING WITH BILS.*

Of the Virgins (Jungfrauen), or pretended Lepers.



THE xixth chapter is about the VIRGINS. These are beggars who carry rattles as though they were real lepers, and yet they are not. This is called GOING WITH THE VIRGIN.

Of the Mümsen, or Spurious Beggars.



THE xxth chapter treats of the MÜMSEN. These are beggars who go about under the pretence of begging ; though it is not real, like that of the Capuchin Friars who are voluntarily poor. These same men have their women sitting in out-of-the-way corners also following the business. This is called GOING WITH THE MÜMSEN.

* BEULEN, bumps, or protuberances ?

Of the Over-Sönzen-Goers,* or pretended
Noblemen and Knights.

THE xxist chapter is about OVER-SÖNZEN-GOERS. These are vagrants or beggars who say they are of noble birth, and that they have suffered by war, fire, or captivity, or have been driven away and lost all they had. These clothe themselves prettily and with neatness, as though they were noble, though it is not so; they have false letters (LOE BSAFFOT); and this they call GOING OVER SÖNZEN.

Of the Kandierers, or pretended Mercers.

THE xxijnd chapter is about the KANDIERERS. These are beggars tidily dressed; they make people believe they had once been merchants over the sea, and have with them a LOE

* UBERN SÖNZEN GANGER.

BSAFFOT, from the bishop (as common people think), but the trick has been well related in *capitulo tertio*, together with an account of the LOSSNERS (liberated prisoners),—how they obtain their false letters and seals, saying they have been robbed; but it is all lies. This is called GOING OVER CLANT.

Of the Ueranerins, or baptized Jewesses.



THE xxiiijth chapter is about the VERANERINS. These are women who say they are baptized Jewesses and have turned Christians, and can tell people whether their fathers or mothers are in hell or not, and beg gowns and dresses and other things, and have also false letters and seals. They are called VERANERINS.

Of Christianers, Calmierers, or (pretended) Pilgrims.



THE xxiiijth chapter is about CHRISTIANERS or CALMIERERS. These are beggars who wear signs in their hats, especially Roman veronicas, shells, and other tokens, which they sell to each other, in order that it shall be thought they have been in distant cities and foreign parts. For this reason they wear these signs, although they have never come thence, and they deceive people thereby. They are called CALMIERERS.

Of the Seffers, or Salvers.



THE xxvth chapter is about the SEFFERS. These are beggars who besmear themselves all over with salve, and lie down before the churches; thus looking as though they had been ill a long time, and as if their mouth and face had

broken out in fores; but if they go to a bath three days after these go away again.

Of the Schweigers, or the Jaundiced.



THE xxvjth chapter is about the SCHWEIGERS. These are beggars who take horses' dung and mix it with water, and besmear their legs, hands, and arms with it; thereby appearing as if they had the yellow sickness, or other dreadful disease. Yet it is not true; they cheat people therewith, and they are called SCHWEIGERS.

Of the Burkhart.



THE xxvijth chapter is about the BURKHART. These are they who thrust their hands into gauntlets, and tie them with kerchiefs to their throats, and say they have Saint Anthony's penance, or that of any other Saint. Yet it is not true, and

they cheat people therewith. This is called GOING ON THE BURKHART.

Of the Plattschierers, or Blind Harpers.



THE xxviiijth chapter is about the PLATTSCHIERERS. These are the blind men who sit before the churches on chairs, and play on the lute, and sing various songs of foreign lands whither they have never been, and when they have done singing they begin to VOP (to lie) and FERB in what manner they had lost their eye-sight. *Item*, the hangmen (PLATTSCHIERERS) also before the DIFTEL door (church-door) will take their clothes off till they are stark-naked, and lash themselves with whips and sticks for the sake of their sins, and they do this VOPPERY to cheat mankind, as thou hast just heard in the previous chapter; and this is called PLATTSCHIERING. Also those who stand on stools, and lash themselves with stones and other things, and talk about the saints, usually become hangmen and flayers.

¶ THE SECOND PART.

This is the Second Part of this Book, which speaketh of several Notabilia that relate to the afore-mentioned customs and methods of getting a living, given in a few words.



TEM, there are some of the afore-mentioned who neither ask before a house nor at the door, but step right into the house, or into the chamber, whether any body be within or no. It is from no good reason. These thou knowest thyself.

Item, there are also some that go up and down the aisles of churches, and carry a cup in their hands. They wear clothes suitable for this purpose, and pass about very infirm as tho' they were strangely ill, and go from one to the other, and bow towards those people who are likely to give them something. They are called PFLÜGERS.

Item, there are also some who borrow children upon All Souls' or other Feast Day, and sit down

before the churches as tho' they had many children, and they say "these children are motherless" or "fatherless," but it is not true. This is done in order that people may give to them the more willingly for the sake of ADONE (God).

Exemplum: In a village in Switzerland, there is a statute whereby they give to every beggar v s. hellers on condition that he shall for a quarter of a year at least not beg in the same neighbourhood. Once a woman took these same v s. hellers on condition that she would not beg any more in the neighbourhood. After that she cut her hair off, and begged up and down the country, and came again to Swytz, into the village, and sat down at the church gate with a young child. When the child was uncovered it was found to be a dog. Then she had to run away from the country. This person was called *Weissenburgerin*; she had been in prison at Zurich combing wool.

Item, there are some who put on good clothes and beg in the streets. They accost any person, be

it woman or man, and say, they have lain ill a long time, and are mechanics who have expended all their goods and are ashamed to beg, and ask that thou mayest help them to proceed on their journey. These are called GOOSE-SHEARERS.*

Item, there are likewise some among those before-mentioned who pretend they can dig or search for hidden treasures, and when they find some one who allows himself to be persuaded, they say they must have gold and silver, and must have many masses celebrated to this same end, *et cetera*, with many more words added. Thereby they deceive the nobility, the clergy, and also the laity, for it has not yet been heard that such villains have found these valuables. But they have cheated people enough. They are called SEFEL-(dirt-)DIGGERS.

Item, there are also some among the above who treat their children badly in order that they may become lame (and who would be sorry if they should grow straight-legged) for thereby they are more

* GENSSCHERER, *i. e.* gansscherer.

able to cheat people with their LOE VOTS (lying words).

Item, there are also others among the above who, when they come into the villages, have a little counterfeit finger and dirt* upon it, smearing it all over, and say they have found it, and ask if somebody will buy it. Thus a silly peasant's wife (HANZIN) thinks it is silver, and knows it not, and gives them vi pennies or more for it, and therewith she is cheated. In like manner with *pater nosters*, or other signs which they carry underneath their cloaks. They are called WILTHERS.

Item, there are also some QUESTIONERS (persons who ask alms) who make evil use of the holy goods which they receive, be it flax, linen-cloth, broken silver plate, or other things; they are easily detected by those who are knowing, but the common man will soon be cheated. I give to no QUESTIONER anything, excepting the four messengers, *id est*, those that are here written down, viz. *Sancti Anto-*

* In the original *kor*, i. e. *kat*.

nii, Sancti Valentini, Sancti Bernardi, et Spiritus Sancti. The same have been confirmed by the See of Rome.*

Item, beware of the pedlers who seek thee at home, for thou wilt buy nothing good of them, be it silver, haberdashery, spicery, or any other wares.

Beware, likewise, of the doctors who travel up and down the country, and offer theriack and roots, and make much ado about themselves, and especially some blind doctors. One called Hans of Straßburg, has been a Jew, and was christened at Straßburg at Whitsuntide; years ago his eyes were bored out at Worms, but he is now a physician, and tells fortunes, and travels from place to place, and cheats and defrauds every body. How? I need not say, I could tell well enough.

Item, beware of the JONERS (gamblers) who practice BESEFLERY with the BRIEF (cheating at cards), who *deal* falsely and *cut* one for the other, cheat with BÖGLEIN and SPIES, pick one BRIEF (card) from the

* On this passage *Luther* remarks:—"But now it is all over with these too!"

ground, and another from a cupboard; they cheat also with the REGERS (dice); with *hearts*, the *chest*, in *taking off* and in *laying on*, with METZES, STABS, GUMNES, PRISSING, with the *four knaves*; they use LOE MESS (bad coins), or LOE STETTINGERS (bad florins), and make use of many other rogueries, such as *drawing out*, the *rot*, the *stake*, &c., which I had better not explain, for your own good.

And these same knaves eat and drink always at such houses as are called the Stick, which means they never pay the landlord what they owe him, but when they leave there “sticks” mostly something to them which commonly departs with them.

Item, there is yet another sort among the landstrollers. These are the *tinkers* who travel about the country. They have women (WEIBER) who go before them and sing and play; some go about full of mischief, and if thou givest them nothing, one of them mayhap will break a hole in thy kettle with a stick or a knife to give work to a multitude of others.

Et sic de aliis.



¶ THE THIRD PART OF THIS
LITTLE BOOK IS THE
VOCABULARY.



DONE, God. *Hebrew*, ADHONAIY, the Lord, *i. e.* God.

ACHELN, to eat. *Hebrew*, AKÁL.

ALCHEN! to go.

ALCH DICH! go! or, go quickly!

ALCH DICH ÜBERN BREITHART! go far away!
remove to a distance!

ALCH DICH ÜBERN GLENZ! go far away! re-
move to a distance!

BARLEN, to speak. *French*, PARLER.

BESCHÖCHER, tipsy. *German*, BESÓFFEN, drunken,
inebriated.

BETZAM, an egg. *Hebrew*, BEYTZAH.

BLECH, a BLAFFART,—an obsolete coin containing 48
hellers. *German*, BLECH, a thin piece of metal.

BLECHLEIN, a kreüzer,—a smaller coin than the preceding, containing 8 hellers. *German*, *BLECHLEIN*, the diminutive of *BLECH*.

BÖLEN, *HELSEN*,—probably the *German*, *HALSEN*, to embrace any one, to jump at one's neck (*HALS*); also to veer.

BOPPEN, to lie ; be placed or situated.

BOSS, or *BETT*, a house. This term would seem to be from the *Hebrew*, *BETH*, a house. *Bo*, or *Bos*, is a common prefix in the old *Cornish*, and signifies a house, as *BOSCAWEN*, *BOSPIDNICK*.

BOSS DICH! hold thy tongue !

BOSSHART, meat. The *Hebrew*, *BÁSAR*, signifies flesh.

BOSSHART-VETZER, a butcher. *Hebrew*.

BREGEN, to beg. Both this and the following are probably corruptions of the *German*, *PREDIGEN*, to pray, to preach ; or they may have come from the *Old German*, *BRACHER*, a pauper. Possibly, however, they are nothing more than corruptions of *BEGHARD*, the name given to a low order of friars before the Reformation. These professed poverty, and lived on alms. Their orthodoxy and morality were doubtful. In general they were denounced by the ecclesiastical authorities. See Mosheim, *de BEGHARDIS et Beguinis*. The term evidently comes from

the *Saxon*, BEGGEN, mendicare ; and HARD, or HART, a servant.

BREGER, a beggar.

BREITHART, far, wide,—BREIT here being equivalent to broad, or wide ; and HART, to very, or exceedingly.

BREITFUSS, a goose, or duck,—literally, a “broad-foot.”

BRESEM, BRÜCH, to break. The *Old German*, BRUCH, signifies *fractura, ruptura; femoralia; locus palustris; infractio legis*. The *Modern German*, BRUCH, refers to a breach or rupture in a person, especially a breakage caused by violence.

BRIEF, a playing card. *German*, BRIEF, a letter.

BRIEFELVETZER, a clerk. *Vide* FETZEN.

BRIEFEN, to play at cards.

BRISSEN, to denounce.

BRÜSS, a leper.

BSAFFOT, a letter, a cipher. The *German*, ZIFFER, signifies a cipher, and probably comes from the *Arabic* or *Hebrew*,—SÉPHER in the latter being equivalent to writing, a writing, or whatever is written in a book.

BSCHIDERICH, a magistrate. Probably this term, together with the following, were merely vulgar adaptations of the *German*, BESCHIEDEN, to appoint, to be

discreet. The *Old German*, BESCHEID-RIK, might be translated as "powerful in decision," and BESCHEIDRUOM, "renowned for discretion or modesty."

BSCHUDERULM, nobility.

BÜTZELMAN, ZAGEL. The *German*, ZAGEL, is a provincial word, and signifies a tail. See SCHEISS.

DALLINGER, a hangman. Probably a corruption of GALGENER,—from the *German*, GALGEN, a gallows, or gibbet.

DERLING, a die (plural *dice*).

BIERLING, the eye. Possibly a diminutive of the *German*, THÜR, a door, or entrance,—not inappropriately applied to the eye, as the little door out of which all things are seen.

DIERN, to see.

DIFTEL, a church. Probably a corruption of the *German*, STIFTEL,—a diminutive of STIFT, a cathedral. STIFTUNG is a foundation, establishment; STIFTER, a founder.

DIPPEN, to give. *German*, GEBEN.

DOLMAN, the gallows. The *German*, DOLMAN, properly signifies a pelisse,—the tight-fitting nature of which may have given rise to the cant application to a gallows.

DOTSCH, *vulva*. Supposed by some to be from the

German, TASCHE, a pocket. The *Bavarian* words DOTSCH, DOST, DOSTEN, however, still signify *vulva*. DOUL (*i. e.* DÖEL,—DAUL), a penny. The fourth part of a BLECHLEIN, or kreuzer.

DRITLING, a shoe. From the *Old German*, TRITLING, a footstool, a bench,—a diminutive of TRITT, *gradus, passus incessus, cursus pedestris*. TRETten is *omnes pedum motus*, from the *Celtic*, TRUD; *Ancient British*, TROED,—so that it seems very probable that TRITLING, or DRITLING, may have meant a little treader, or shoe.

DÜ EIN HAR, FLEUCH.

EMS, good. The *German*, EMSIG, is assiduous; DIE EMSIGE BIENE, the busy bee. It seems to come from the *Old German*, EMMAZZIG, for UNMUAZIG, *occupatus et minime otiosus*. After the same fashion is derived the *French*, A-MUSER.

ERFERKEN (ERSECKEN?), RETSCHEN.

ERLAT, the master. The *Welch*, HERLOD, is a stripling, lad; HERLODES, a damsel, girl. It is supposed that the word “harlot,” which originally signified a bold stripling, is from this. Chaucer says:—

A sturdie *harlot*—that was her hostes man,
He was a gentil *harlot*, and a kind.

If ERLAT is from the *German*, it would be from HERRLAUT, a distinguished lord, a master.

ERLATIN, the mistress.

FELING, a grocery, or general store ; a grocer's wife.

FETZEN, or *VETZEN*, to work, to make. *Latin*, *FACERE*. The *German*, *FETZEN*, signifies a piece, or slice.

FLADER, a bath-room, a barber's shop.

FLADER-FETZER, a barber.

FLADER-FETZERIN, a barber's wife.

FLICK, *KNAB*. *Hilpert* refers to *FLÜGGE*, unfledged.

FLOSS, soup. From the *German*, *FLOSS*, a stream ;
FLOSSEN, to flow.

FLOSSART, water.

FLÖSSELT, drowned. Previous to the time of Luther, beggars were drowned when caught stealing. *Vide Gengenbach*.

FLÖSSEN, to make water.

FLÖSSLING, a fish. *German*, *FLOSSE*, a fin.

FLUCKART, poultry, birds. From the *German*, *FLIEGEN*, to fly ; literally, " fly-hard," or " fast-flyer."

FUNKART, fire. *German*, *FUNKE*, a spark.

FUNKARTHOLE, an earthenware stove.

FÜNKELN, to boil, cook, roast.

GACKENSCHERR, a chicken. *German*, *GACKEN*, to cackle ; *SCHARREN*, to scratch.

GALCH, a parson, priest. The *Old German*, *GALL*, is *castratus* ; the same with *GELDE*,—whence *GOL*, *GEL*,

sterile. The *German*, *KELCH*, is a chalice, the communion cup. *GALCH* may be, however, simply an extension of *GALLE*.

GALCHENBOSS, a parsonage.

GALLE, a parson. *Hebrew*, *KÁHAL*, a priest.

GALLEN, a town.

GANHART, the devil.

GATZAM, a child. *Hebrew*, *GATAM*, said to be derived from an *Arabic* word, signifying any one puny or thin. Or from the *German*, *KÄTZCHEN*, a little cat, a kitten.

GEBICKEN, to catch.

GENFEN, or *JENFEN*, to steal.

GFAR, a village. *Hebrew*, *CHÁFÁR*, a village, hamlet.

GIEL, the mouth.

GITZLIN, a morsel of bread.

GLATHART, a table. *German*, *GLATT*, smooth.

GLENZ, a field.

GLESTERICH, glass. *German*, *GLITZERN*, to glitter.

GLID (*i. e.* *GLEID*), a harlot.

GLIDENBOSS, a brothel.

GLIDENFETZERIN, a frequenter of brothels.

GLISS, milk.

GOFFEN, *SCHLAHEN*.

GRIFFLING, a finger. *German*, *GREIFEN*, to grasp.

GRIN (*i. e.* *GRYM**), food.

GRUNHART, a field, *i. e.* very green, or green-like.

GUGELFRANZ, a monk.

GUGELFRENZIN, a nun.

GURGELN, *LANTSKNECHTBETLIN*, *i. e.* *GURGELN LANTSKNECHT*, would seem to refer to a begging foot-foldier.

HANFSTAUD, a shirt,—literally “hemp-shrub.”

HANS WALTER, a louse. *HANZ* literally means Jack or John. The old word *HANSA* refers to a multitude; *Old German*, *HANSE*, a society; *HANS*, a companion.

HANS VON GELLER, coarse bread.

HAR, *FLEUCH*.

HANZ, a peasant. *See HANS WALTER*.

HANZIN, a peasant’s wife.

HEGIS, a hospital. The *Old German*, *HAG*, is a house (from *HAGEN* to hedge in, inclose), *quasi locus septus habitandi causa*. The *Old German*, *HEGEN*, is to nourish, feed, to receive into one’s house and company. The *Su. Goth.* *HÆGA*, is to serve.

HELLERICHTIGER, a florin.

HERTERICH, a knife or dagger.

HIMMELSTEIG, the Lord’s Prayer,—literally, “Heaven’s steps.”

* “*Güt und greym*,” *güt*.

HOCKEN, to fit, to lie.

HOLDERKAUZ, a hen.

HORK, a peasant.

HORNBOCK, a cow.

ILTIS, a constable, town sergeant. The *Modern German*,
ILTIS, or *ILTIS*, signifies a pole-cat, fitchet; and
ILTISFALLE is a trap for catching pole-cats,—or, as Dr.
 Johnson calls them, “stinking beasts.” The *Icelandic*,
ILLTUR, is *malus*; and the *Cymrie*, *YLLTYR*, is *talpa*,
 a mole.

JOHAM, wine. From the *Hebrew*, *YAH’-YIN*, wine.
 Gengenbach renders this *JOHN*.

JONEN, to play,—at cards, or other game of chance.
French, *JOUER*?

JONER, a player, a gambler.

JUFFART, DER DA ROT IST ODER FREIHEIT.

JUVERBASSEN, to swear.

KABAS, a head. *Latin*, *caput*.

KAFFRIM (*JACOBSBRÜDER*), a pilgrim to the grave of
 St. James.

KAMMESIERER, a learned beggar.

CAVAL, a horse. *Latin*, *CABALLUS*.

CAVELLER, a flayer, a butcher. *Modern German*,
KAFILLER.

KERIS, wine. *Modern German*, *XERESWEIN*, sherry;

or, from KIRSCH, a cherry,—KIRSCHEN-WASSER, cherry-water.

CHRISTIAN (JACOBSBRÜDER), a pilgrim to the grave of St. James.

KIELAM, a town.

KIMMERN, to buy. *German*, KRAMEN, to trade.

CLAFFOT, a dress, a cloak. In Gengenbach's metrical version of the *Liber Vagatorum*, this is rendered KLABOT, clothes.

CLAFFOT-FETZER, a tailor.

KLEBIS, a horse,—literally, “a clover-biter.”

KLEMS, punishment, imprisonment. The *German*, KLEMMEN, signifies to pinch.

KLEMSSEN, to arrest, imprison.

KLENKSTEIN, a traitor.

KLINGEN, LEIER;—perhaps one who plays upon a lyre, from the *German*, KLINGEN, to sound, KLINGELN, to tinkle.

KLINGENFETZERIN, LEIERIN,—probably a female player upon the lyre.

KRACKLING, a nut. From the *German*, KRACHEN, to crack.

KRAX, a cloister.

KRÖNER, a husband. From the *German*, KRONEN, to crown, to appoint as head or principal.

KRÖNERIN, a wife.

LEFRANZ, a priest.

LEFRENZIN, a priest's harlot.

LEHEM, bread. *Hebrew*. A cotemporary of
Luthet, Gengenbach, spells the word *LEM*.

LINDRUNSCHEL, corn-gatherers.

LISS-MARKT, the head,—literally, "the louse market."

LÖE, bad, false. From *Belgian*, *LOH*, *Danish*, *LAAG*,
low; *Saxon*, *LOH*, a pit, or gulf.

LÖE ÖTLIN, the devil,—literally, "the wicked gentleman."

LÜSSLING, the ear. *Old German*, *LOSEN*, or *LUSEN*, to
listen. Beggars formerly had their ears cut off when
detected stealing.

MACKUM, the town.

MEGEN (or *MENGEN*), to drown.

MENG, *KESSLER*.

MENKLEN, to eat.

MESS, money, coin. The *German*, *MESSING*, signifies
brafs.

MOLSAMER, a traitor.

NARUNG-TÜN, to seek, or look out for food. *German*,
NAHRUNG, livelihood; *THUN*, to do, make.

PFLÜGER, an alms-gatherer in churches.

PLATSCHEN, to go about preaching.

PLATSCHIERER, a preacher,—from tubs, &c.

PLICKSCHLAHER, a naked person.

POLENDER, a castle, a fort. Perhaps connected with the *German*, *BOLL*, *BOLLIG*, hard, stiff; *BOLLWARK*, a bastion, bulwark.

QUIEN, a dog. *Latin*, *CANIS*.

QUIENGOFFER, a dog-killer?

RANZ, a sack, pouch. *German*, *RANZEN*.

RAULING, a baby.

RAUSCHART, a straw matrafs. *German*, *RAUSCHEN*, to rustle.

REEL, St. Vitus' Dance.

REGEL (or *REGER*), a die (plural *dice*). From the *German*, *REGEN*, to move?

REGENWURM, a faufage,—literally, “a rainworm.”

RIBLING, dice.

RICHTIG, just.

RIELING, a pig.

RIPPART, *SECKEL*.

ROL, a mill. *German*, *ROLLEN*, to roll.

ROLVETZER, a miller.

*ROTBOS*S, a beggar's house of call, beggar's home.

RÜBOLT, freedom.

RÜREN, to play. *German*, *RUHREN*, to touch, rattle.

RUMPFING (or RUMPFING), mustard. From the
German, RÜMPFEN, to wriggle?

RUNZEN, to cheat in dealing cards, gambling, &c.

SCHEISS (SCHIESS), ZAGEL,—a tail. *German*, SCHEISSE, excrement, dung; SCHEISSEN, to dung (imperative, SCHEISS); SCHIESSEN, to shoot, dart (imperative, SCHIESS). *Old German*, SCHIESSEN, *labi, præcipitari, celeriter moveri*. See BÜTZELMAN.

SCHLING, flax, linen. *German*, SCHLINGEN, to entwine.

SCHLUN, SCHAFFEN,—to cause, get, make, procure, or produce anything.

SCHMALKACHEL, a slanderer. *German*, KACHEL, a pot,—literally, “a slandering-pot.”

SCHMALN, to slander. *Modern German*, SCHMÄLEN.

SCHMUNK, melted butter.

SCHNIEREN, to hang. *German*, SCHNUR, a string.

SCHÖCHERN, to drink. *Modern German*, SCHENKEN, to fill, retail liquor; SCHENKE, a drinking-house, ale-house; SCHENKWIRTH, a beer-draper.

SCHÖCHERVETZER, an innkeeper.

SCHOSA, *vulva*. This is supposed to be from the
Silesian, DIE SCHOOS, the lap; *Bavarian*, GSCHOSL.

SCHREF, a harlot.

SCHREFENBOSS, a house of ill fame.

SCHREILING, a child, — diminutive formed from

SCHREIEN, to cry.

SCHRENZ, a room.

SCHÜRNBRANT, beer.

SCHWENZEN, to go.

SCHWERZ, night. *German*, *SCHWARZ*, black.

SEFEL, dirt. *Hebrew*, *SHÁFÁR*, humble, mean?

SEFELBOSS, a house of office, dirt-house.

SEFELN, to evacuate.

SENFTRICH, a bed. *German*, *SANFT*, soft.

SONNENBOSS, a brothel.

SONZ, a nobleman, gentleman.

SONZIN, a lady.

SPELTING, a heller, — the smallest coin.

SPITZLING, oats. *Modern German*, *SPITZLING*, oat-grafs; *SPITZE*, the point of anything; *SPITZ*, pointed, peaked. The term appears to be a diminutive.

SPRANKART, falt. *German*, *SPRENKELN*, to scatter.

STABULER, a bread-gatherer.

STEFUNG, *ZIL*. *Old German*, *ZIL*, is *finis*, *limes*, *terminus temporis et loci*; also *meta jaculantis*, *scopus agentis*, *terminus oculi et mentis*.

STETTINGER, a florin, — perhaps one minted at Stettin.

STOLFEN, to stand.

STREIFLING, trousers. *German*, *STREIFEN*, to strip.

STROBORER, a goose,—literally, “a straw-borer.”

STROM, a brothel. Possibly an allusion to *STRUMMEL*, the *Old English Cant* for straw, with which houses of this description may have been littered. The cant expression, *STRUMMEL*, was probably introduced into this country by the gipsies and other vagabonds from the Continent, in the reign of Henry VIII.

STROMBART, a forest.

STUPART, flour. *Old German*, *STOPPEL*, *cauda frumenti*, from the *Latin*, *STIPULA*.

TERICH, the land, or country. *Latin*, *TERRA*.

VERKIMMERN, to sell. *See* *KIMMERN*.

VERLUNSCHEN, *VERSTEEN*.

VERMONEN, to cheat.

VERSENKEN, to pawn,—literally, “to sink.”

VOPPART, a fool. *Modern German*, *FOPPEN*, to mock.

VOPPEN, to lie, tell falsehoods.

WENDERICH, cheese.

WETTERHAN, a hat,—literally, “a weathercock.”

WINTFANG, a cloak,—literally, “a wind-catcher.”

WISSULM, silly people.

WUNNENBERG, a pretty young woman. *German*,
WONNE, pleasure.

ZICKUS, a blind man. *Latin*, *CÆCUS*.

ZWENGERING, a jacket. *German*, *ZWÄNGEN*, to force.

ZWICKER, a hangman. *German*, *ZWICKEN*, to pinch.

ZWIRLING, an eye.

NOTHING WITHOUT REASON.

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